

These to Youngs
LOW LIFE

to Some Coffee House
ABOVE STAIRS.

Devereux
A Court

F A R C E.

As it is Acted

In most Families of DISTINCTION
Throughout the KINGDOM.

*Rarus enim firmè, sensus communis in illâ
Fortunâ.* — — —

Juv.



L O N D O N :

Printed for J. WILLIAMS, in the Year
M DCC LIX.

LOW LIE

ABOVE STAIRS.

F A R C E.

As it is Aded

In most Families of Distinction
Throughout the KINGDOM.

181

Printed and Sold by J. WILKINSON in the Strand



LONDON

Printed for J. WILKINSON in the Strand
MIDDL

Tom's Copy
[v]
House

P R O L O G U E

By FRIENDS;

Intended to be spoken by Mrs. C. L. V. E. R.

LOW LIFE above Stairs! Fie, 'tis idle
Stuff:
We've seen low Life above Stairs long
enough.

THIS Author is a most provoking Creature,
How durst he copy high Life after Nature?
Presumptuous Bards must insolently show
Low Life above Stairs, and high Life below!
Curs'd Poet thus to vilify the Great,
No Dutchess can from Virtue deviate.
To Worth high Quality is still allied,
Ladies your Virtue can the Test abide:

Your

Your noble Minds all genuine Worth adorns,

No *English* Peer was ever seen with Horns!

Dutcheffes ne'er were known to make false Steps;

'Tis Calumny to call them Demi-reps.

Tho' Suitors still attend them in a Train,

Their Reputations know no Spot or Stain!

What tho' they're free of Speech, sing, play, and
dance?

What tho' they copy all the Modes of *France*?

What tho' they lisp and trip, distort their Fea-
tures,

Bedaub their Faces, and nick-name G o d's
Creatures!

Most virtuous these, where Virtue's Self resides,

Their Conduct still, all Calumny derides.

They ever listen to fair Virtue's Lore,

So harmless — that they think no Wife a Whore.

Dramatis

Tom's Coffee
House
Dramatis Personæ.

M E N.

Duke of Lovesport.

Lord Lawless.

Lord Libertine.

Sir William Sycophant.

Frifferon, a French Barber.

Porter.

Tradesmen;

W O M E N.

Dutchess of Lovesport.

Betty, her Woman.

L O W

Copy
1000
Dramatis Personae.

M E N

Duke of Lovelock.
Lord Hawke.
Lord Iphigene.
Sir William Spangham.
Tristram, a French Gentleman.
Bont.
Trabelan.

W O M E N

Duchess of Lovelock.
Betty, her Woman.

L O W



LOW LIFE

ABOVE STAIRS.

ACT I.

SCENE I.

An Apartment in Lord Lawless's House.

Lord Lawless and Lord Libertine entering.

Lord Libertine.



H A T turn Footman! I'd be glad to know, what has put you upon so strange a Frolick?

Lord Lawless. Your Curiosity shall soon be satisfied; you must know I have for some time past languished, with the most tender Passion for the Dutchess of *Lovesport*, and she having heard me as favourably as I could wish, has herself suggested this Stratagem to facilitate our Intercourse.

B

Lord

Lord Libertine. 'Tis an odd Whim enough in the Lady; she seems to have but little Occasion for such Expedients, as the Duke, who has no longer any Manner of Doubt that he is of the honourable Order of Cuckolds, has left his Lady to her own Discretion, and lays it down as a Maxim, that a Man's Honour does not depend upon his Wife's lifting up her Petty-coat, or keeping it down.

Lord Lawless. The Maxim undoubtedly is a very just one, and shews his Grace's Philosophy to be equal to his Taste, which is allowed to be exquisite in all the Arts.

Lord Libertine. Now you talk of his Grace's Taste, I have often heard it hinted, that it was exquisite in something else besides the Arts.

Lord Lawless. I have heard some graceless Reports of his Grace myself, but let that rest. Do but read over this Letter, and then judge whether I have not Reason to think myself a happy Man.

Lord Libertine reads;

My dear Lord, Nov. 6. 1759.

PERSONS of my Rank should be exempted from those Constraints of Decorum, which the Tyrant Custom has laid upon such of the Sex as can plead neither Title nor Coronet to authorise the Infringement of them. I shall therefore make a free Declaration of my Sentiments without any Disguise

guise or Ceremony. I have no Objection to your Person, my Lord; what I have seen of it has given me a favourable Idea of what I could not see. You have as fine a Leg as any Man in *England*; and I make no Doubt but you have a very good Skin. You have professed a Passion for me, which I believe to be sincere. To put me out of all Doubt endeavour to get into the Family as a Footman, for in that Disguise you will surely be able to give me convincing Proofs of your Love.

Your's,

ELIZ. LOVESPORT.

The Lady has here given you sufficient Encouragement, I believe, you need not despair. But if I was you, I'd have nothing to say to her by G—d.

Lord *Lawless*. Why so?

Lord *Libertine*. I should not care to venture; her Ladyship has been poxed as often as any Drab in *Drury-lane*.

Lawless. Poh! I dont mind that; all such Considerations never obstruct my Pleasure; If an Accident should happen there are Surgeons enough in Town, and the Dutches is worth going through a Salivation for by G—d.

Lord *Libertine*. I'd see all the Dutcheses and Countesses in *England* at the Devil before I'd buy them at that Price. But since you are determined upon the Adventure I wish

[4]

you Success. Adieu ; I must go and pay
Sir *William Sycophant* a Visit.

Lord *Lawless*. And I'll go directly and pre-
pare my Disguise : Love has made many a
great Man descend from his Character.

*The God of Love spares neither great nor small,
He makes the Countess like the Sempstress fall ;
His Power weak Mortals vainly would oppose,
Since he makes Lords assume their Lacquies
Cloaths.*

[*Exeunt severally.*

SCENE II.

*Scene changes to Sir William Sycophant's
House in Grovesnor-Square. Several Per-
sons waiting at the Door.*

To them the *Porter*. God confound you
all, what a damn'd Rout you make. I tell
you my Master is not stirring.

First Tradesman. Then by G—d I'll stay
till he is, I have been put off ten Times al-
ready, but I'm resolved I'll be put off no
longer.

Second Tradesman. Nor I, by G—d, poor
Folks must live as well as rich Folks.

Third Tradesman. Take Care what you
say, Gentlemen ; Sir *William* is a Member
of

of Parliament, and has a Privilege not to pay us, if he pleases.

First Tradesman. There may be something in that Neighbour, to be sure 'tis dangerous to aggravate great Folks.

Enter Lord Libertine.

Lord Libertine. Is Sir *William* stirring?

Porter. He is, my Lord.

First Tradesman. If I could speak one Word to his Honour.

Porter. Damn your Blood; what are you plaguing me for: His Honour's busy, you can't speak to him till he's done.

S C E N E III.

Lord Libertine and Sir William Sycophant entering.

Lord Libertine. Sir *William*, your humble Servant.

Sir William. My Lord, I am your's.

Lord Libertine. I am come to ask a Favour of you, Sir *William*.

Sir William. My Lord, any Thing that lies in my Power you may depend upon.

Lord Libertine. Not to keep you any longer in Suspence, Sir *William*, you are to understand that Doctor *Jeremiah Supple*, my Chaplain,

Chaplain, has lately done me a Piece of Service, which, as a Man of Honour, I think myself obliged to requite. The Action certainly merits a Reward: You must know, I had for some Time met with an obstinate Resistance from a Sister of his, who had some precise and whimsical Notions of Virtue, which the Reverend Mr. *Supple*, being an excellent Casuist, found Means to remove, and for this Service, I must beg the Favour of you to exert your Interest to get him preferred to the See of ———.

Sir *William*. My Lord, I shall employ all the Interest I have in your Chaplain's Behalf. But as one good Turn deserves another, I must beg the Favour of you to procure a Captain's Commission for Mr. *Shoulderknot*.

Lord *Libertine*. Mr. *Shoulderknot*! Why he was formerly your Footman; it would be a Disgrace to the Army.

Sir *William*. Give me Leave to tell you, my Lord, that he has now noble Blood in his Veins. He has been P—th—k to the Honourable Mr. ———.

Lord *Libertine*. Since you patronize him, Sir *William*, I shall do all that lies in my Power for him.

Sir *William*. I wish you a good Morning.

[Exit.]

SCENE

SCENE IV.

Enter First Tradesman.

I ask your Honour's Pardon, but my Necessities are so great, that I hope your Honour will consider me.

Sir William. Mr. Cucumber, I have so much Business upon my Hands this Morning that I can think of nothing else, but if you call four or five Days hence you may depend upon being satisfied.

[Exit Taylor.]

Enter Second Tradesman.

Please your Honour, I am come to see if this little Account can be settled. Your Honour knows it is of a pretty long Standing.

Sir William. Mr. Frizzle, you have come at a very unlucky Time, I have too much Business now to settle Accounts. Call To-morrow, or next Day.

[Exit Perukemaker.]

Enter Third Tradesman.

If your Honour would be so good as to look over that Account, your Honour —

Sir William. Call any Time next Week, and you may depend upon being paid.

[Exit Tradesman.]

Sir

Sir William solus.

Thus we Courtiers pay all Debts, but Debts of Honour. To contract Debts, and never pay them, is the great Prerogative of high Station. A Debtor is under a Sort of a Promise, and it would be a Solecism in a Courtier to be as good as his Word.

[Exit.]

S C E N E V.

Enter the Dutchess of Lovesport and Lord Lawless disguised as a Footman.

Lord Lawless. This Disguise removes all Obstacles to the Completion of our Desires. We may thus defy the Vigilance of Jealousy, and the Censoriousness of a malicious World. But why do you still defer my Happiness by these unkind Delays?

Dutchess of Lovesport. You are a strange Man, my Lord, how can you put such a Construction upon an innocent Frolick. When I desired you to take this Disguise, I never once dreamt you would have carried Things so far; if I had, I should never have proposed it to you.

Lord Lawless. In your Letter, Madam, you expressed yourself in very different Terms, that gave me some Reason to expect a different Reception.

Dutchess

Dutchess of Lovesport. Lord! how you misunderstand one's Words, but supposing some Expression capable of such an Interpretation might have escaped me, does one always know what one writes?

Lord Lawless. If that be the Case, Madam, my Company is entirely unnecessary, and therefore I shall take my Leave of your Ladyship.

[*Going.*

Dutchess. What haste are you in? I never knew such a provoking Fellow in my Life. Don't go, I have something to say to you. Do you think I sent for you for nothing?

Lord Lawless. If your Ladyship sent for me only to speak to me, I think you did send for me for nothing.

[*Going.*

Dutchess. Stay one Moment, my Lord, and answer me this Question, What did you imagine I sent for you for?

Lord Lawless. I came with an Intention to lie with your Ladyship, and I really thought you sent for me for that Purpose. But since I see you have changed your Mind, I will not trouble you any longer with my Company.

[*Going.*

Dutchess pulling him back. Lord! how sudden you are in your Judgments. Don't be quite so sure that I have changed my Mind. It does not follow from any Thing I have said, that I have. You know, my Lord,

C

we

we Women do not always know our own Minds.

Lord *Lawless*. I ask your Ladyship's Pardon, but since you so often retract what you say, I shall no longer give Credit to Words, Actions alone can now convince me. But *à propos* I see a Bed in the next Room, let me conduct you thither, and when we are upon it, I shall listen to your Arguments with more Attention.

Dutchess. Why indeed, when your Lordship's standing, you are so impatient and intractable that one can't get you to hear Reason; so I believe I must humour you.

Lord *Lawless*. Your Ladyship's Complaint is very just, and if you will favour me with your Hand, I will soon convince you that I am not always impatient and intractable when standing.

Dutchess. Lead on, my Lord, but first you must promise me, that you will offer no Indecencies.

Lord *Lawless*. Your Ladyship may be under no Concern upon that Account, you know I am a Man of Honour.

Dutchess. Every Body knows your Lordship has good Blood in your Veins, and, I hope, you will acquit yourself accordingly.

Lord *Lawless*. Let us lose no more of our precious Time in Words. The Duke may come and interrupt our Interview.

Dutchess.

Dutchess. Well remembered. That would be a most *mal à propos* Accident. The Company of that odious Creature a Husband, tho' always disagreeable, is particularly so upon certain Occasions.

Lord Lawless. Then let us without Delay avail ourselves of this glorious, golden Opportunity.

To the P. I T.

*While we retire to plunge in Floods of Bliss,
Your Presence here, kind Sirs, is not amiss;
A friendly Office you our Love may do,
We'd do as much in such a Case for you.
On you this cannot bring the least Reproach,
Cough, or cry Hem! should any one approach.*

[*Exeunt Arm in Arm.*]

The End of the First A C T.

A C T II.

S C E N E I.

Enter the Duke of Lovesport.

Duke. **I**T is a damn'd Thing that a Man of my Quality should be taken in so grossly, by a Pack of scoundrel Sharpers. Three Thousand Pounds in one Night. Well! I'll think no more about it. I don't know what to do with myself. I'll go and pass an Hour with my Wife; perhaps she may give me a little matrimonial Consolation.

[Exit.

S C E N E II.

Scene opens, and discovers Lord Lawless and the Dutchess of Lovesport in Bed together.

Enter Duke of Lovesport.

Duke. The Dutchess in Bed already; 'tis no Wonder she should be indisposed, as she sits up every Night till three o'Clock at Lady Cheatall's Rout. However, I shall comfort her by my Presence.

*[Going to the Bed.
Dutchess*

Dutchess softly to Lord *Lawless*. Oh Lord ! 'tis my Husband. I'm undone ; he never came at so unseasonable an Hour before ; he has taken me quite at unawares.

Lord *Lawless*. Aye, and me too. But I'm prepared for him.

[Starts up in his Shirt with a Pistol in his Hand.
So your Grace is come to spoil Sport, but I am ready for you by G—d, if you are dissatisfied at seeing me here, I'll go out with you directly.

Duke. My dear Lord *Lawless*, I am very glad to see you ; how have you been this Age ?

Lord *Lawless*. This is no Time for Compliments ; take this Pistol, and do yourself Justice ; or if you have any Objection to a Ball, I wear a Sword, Sir.

Duke. My dear Lord, I'm in Pain for you. You'll get your Death of Cold ; pray go into Bed again. These are Things that should not be taken Notice of among Friends.

Lord *Lawless*. Your Grace's Behaviour is so very generous, that I shall make it my Study to prove grateful : Whenever I marry, my Wife shall be at your Service.

[Exit.

Duke. Lord, Madam ! how could you be so indiscreet, when, you have a Mind to have a Tete-a-tete with a Friend, you might at least lock the Door to prevent Accidents.

Dutchess.

Dutchess. You are the most unpolite Husband in the Parish of St. James's, to come in to my Apartment, without knocking at the Door.

Duke. Well! let us forget what is past, and regulate our Conduct better for the future.

Dutchess. Endeavour to amend your's; I defy the censorious World to find Fault with mine.

D U K E.

*Thus well-bred Cuckolds in St. James's Square,
Comply with every Caprice of the Fair,
And whilst his Spouse à lac'd Gallant suborns,
The Duke into his Pocket puts his Horns:
The Dutchess of her Favours most profuse,
Still keeps a Corner for another Use.*

[Scene shuts.

S C E N E II.

Dutchess of Lovesport at her Toilet.

Dutchess. Lord! how like a Hag I look. That odious Creature my Husband came in quite *mal à propos*. I never see the filthy Animal, but I am indispos'd for three Hours after; I don't know what I shall do to recover my Spirits. Here Betty.

Enter

Enter Betty.

Betty. Did your Ladyship call:

Dutchess. Yes ; send Monsieur *Frifferon* the Hair-cutter to me.

[*Exit.*

Enter Monsieur Frifferon.

Monf. Bon jour Madame, j'ai l'honneur de vous saluer très-humblement. Voulez-vous que je vous accomode présentement Madame.

Dutchess. Oui, Monf. je puis terriblement delabréé n'est ce pas ?

Monf. Me vill accomodate your Hair in two or three Moments, Madam.

[*Taking his Pincers.*

Dutchess. You need not mind now, I had indispos'd myself a little.

Monf. Me be very sorry for it, Madam.

Dutchess, leaning upon him. Monsieur, when the *French* Ladies have a Head-ach, or any such trifling Ailment, what Remedy have they generally Recourse to ?

Monf. De *French* Lady has but one Remedy for all Sort of Maladie, and that is de Gallant.

Dutchess. O Lord ! such a Remedy is worse than any Disease. I must lie down a Moment upon that Couch. I want a little Repose.

Repose. Monsieur, read a few Pages in that French Romance to amuse me.

Monsieur goes to the Bed-side, and reads a Page doubled-down in les Egaremens du Cœur & de l'Esprit:

— Pendant qu'elle me parloit comme ca elle commençoit a badiner avec mes Cheveux:

[Here the Dutchess plays with Monsieur's Hair:]

Monsieur continues:

— Etant devenu hardi parla je l'ai embrassé plusieurs fois & elle a pas paru effarouché.

Dutchess. I like the Lady's Character; I could never endure a Prude.

Monf. aside. Je vois bien qu'elle me veut.

[Embraces the Dutchess.]

Dutchess. Fy, fy, Monsieur, you're rude.

Monf. I would not for de Varld be rude to a Lady.

Dutchess pulls him gently upon the Bed, and unbuttons his, &c.

Enter Lord Lawless.

Lord Lawless. My dear Lady Lovesport, this Husband of your's is an excellent Fellow. We need not now give ourselves any Trouble about procuring Interviews:

Come

*Come then, my fair One, let the God of Love,
Laugh in thy Eyes, and triumph in thy Heart.*

[Going to the Couch.]

Dutchess. Lord! you come upon me as suddenly as a Husband. These Men are all so unpolite; I shall forswear their Company at last.

Lord Lawless. Who have we got here in the Name of Wonder? Oh! 'tis *Frifferon*, my Barber; the impudent Dog to pretend, to rival a Nobleman!

Frifferon. Ah! Monsieur, je vous demande très-humblement Pardon.

Lord Lawless. Damn your Blood, you Rascal, will nothing but a *Dutchess* serve your Turn.

[Kicks him out.]

Mons. Ah, mon Dieu!

Dutchess. Was there ever such intolerable Impertinence; you take Liberties that I would not bear even from a Husband.

Lord Lawless. Oh! Madam, you change Husbands so often that you must be accustomed to such Accidents. I shall take Care to tell this Adventure wherever I go, and so I am your Ladyship's most obedient humble Servant.

[Exit.]

Dutchess

Dutchess alone.

Well ! these Men are horrid unreasonable Creatures. The Fellow has the Impudence to treat me as if I was his Wife.

SCENE III.

Duke of Lovesport solus.

We Noblemen are so us'd to such Accidents, as that of Yesterday ; that we can keep our Temper upon Occasions that would put one of our Inferiors quite out of Patience. Some Blockheads, from a foolish and mistaken Notion of Honour, would expose their Lives in a Duel had they surprized their Wives in so familiar a Posture with a young Fellow, as I did mine Yesterday. But it was always my Opinion, that such Trifles should not ruffle that philosophic Composure of Mind which is so becoming in a Person of Quality. I know how to make myself Amends for my Wife's Inconstancy : I have long had a Passion for Lady Sycophant ; and Sir William, who has as just a Way of thinking in these Matters, as I have myself, offers to procure me his Wife for the Sum of Ten Thousand Pounds. The Price is a little exorbitant ; but as he's in Debt, I hope to bring him down to
Five

Five or Six Thousand. However, Pleasure cannot be too dearly bought.

*Interest with Souls like mine, bears little Sway,
My Wife I give, and for another's pay.*

[Exit.]

SCENE IV.

Scene changes to Sir William Sycophant's House in Grosvenor-Square.

Duke of Lovesport and Sir William entering.

Sir William. I have told your Grace already that I am resolved not to take less than Ten Thousand Pounds; and I am surpris'd, that a Person of your Rank should think much of purchasing Pleasure with so small a Sum.

Duke. *Sir William*, you know by Experience that Persons of Rank and Quality have Occasion for their Money as well as their Inferiours. Let us try, if we can't compromise this Matter. The Dutchess of Lovesport is a fine Woman. Now, if you deal with me for Six Thousand Pounds, you shall have her into the Bargain.

Sir William. I thank your Grace for the Offer. But, at present, I want Money more than any Thing else, and am resolved to abate nothing of my Demand.

Duke. Was there ever so unreasonable a Fellow. However, I must close with him. Well! Sir *William*, you shall have your own Terms. Let us send directly for our Lawyers, and sign the Deed.

Sir *William*. Allons dons.

SCENE V.

St. James's Park.

Lord Lawless and Lord Libertine meeting.

Lord Libertine. How have you been this Age, my Lord?

Lord Lawless. My Lord, your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant.

Lord Libertine. My Lord, I am impatient to know what Success you had with the Dutchess.

Lord Lawless. Damn the B—t—ch to Hell and the Devil, she has p—x—d me; I shou'd have done more prudently, had I remained true to K—t—y F—sh—r.

Lord Libertine. Ha! ha! ha! I told you how your Amour would end. In the present Age, the Ladies of Q—l—ty of *England* have so well copied the Manners of those of *France*, that they are greater Benefactresses

factresses to the Surgeons than the Actresses and common Whores.

Lord *Lawless*. Damn them to Hell and the Devil ; they only bring Nobility into Disgrace by copying the Manners of their Inferiors, just as a Parcel of low-lived Wretches make the Manners of their Superiors appear ridiculous by an aukward Imitation of them. But as these Creatures have been lately ridiculed upon the Stage, the only Place where the Bad may be exposed, and the Good rewarded, in that admirable Piece, *High Life below Stairs* ; it is to be hoped, this Abuse will not long prevail among us.

You've seen High Life below Stairs, but to Night,

We shew Low Life above Stairs, rarer Sight,

Conceit makes Lacquies to our Airs pretend,

But into Lacquies Love makes Lords descend.

Love the despotic Master levels all

And no Distinction knows of great or small.

The End of the Second ACT.

EPILOGUE.

E P I L O G U E.

Intended to be spoken by Mr. GARRICK.

THE World's turn'd upside down, thro'out
the Nation,

No Mortal is contented with his Station;

Dull Citizens to vie with Nobles strive,

Lords take the Whip in Hand and Coaches drive:

The Footman apes the Manners of his Master,

And N—b—y himself turns Poetaster.

Such are the various Follies of the Times,

As might from M—y force some wretched Rhimes.

So great the Crop of Fools in this our Age,

There cannot be a Dearth upon the Stage.

OUR Author from this Source prolific gleans,

And draws from human Nature all his Scenes:

His Talents for the Drama, and his Wit,

We humbly to your Judgment do submit,

Ye Sons of Sense, ye Critics of the Pit.

If our Pretensions on the Stage should fail,

We to the *Bedford* Coffee-house appeal.

